

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were amended in the April 8, 2004 Amendment and remain in the case.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Whitney* (GB 2 202 549 A). According to the Examiner, "*Whitney* discloses a disposable reactor that includes an outer envelop (flexible outer membrane) and at least one inner envelop (flexible draught tube). The envelopes are sealed with respect to the external environment and the device includes a gas injection means (sparger) for the inner compartment. The envelopes communicate with one another such that liquid medium flows between the compartments (See Figure 2). The exhaust (See Figure 2) provides means for removing gas from the outer compartment." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because *Whitney* fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1 and 3.

Claim 1 recites: "A disposable reactor for culturing cells or microorganisms . . . ". Avoiding the need to sterilize the reactor after each culturing can considerably reduce cost, time and human resources. Instead of sterilizing, either by steam or by way of an autoclave, which may represent up to 30% of the operation costs of the reactor, the user merely uses another reactor. (See Spec., ¶¶8 to 14.)

Whitney does not disclose a disposable reactor. *Whitney* is directed to "foldable fermenters" capable of being folded and stored. "Even large foldable fermenters can be folded into a volume small enough to be sterilized in an autoclave of normal dimensions. . . . [They are] constructed of materials capable of withstanding sterilization" (*Whitney* Spec., pg. 1.) This clearly shows that the reactor (i.e., "fermenter") disclosed in *Whitney* is anything but disposable. Thus, *Whitney* does not disclose a "disposable reactor" and therefore does not anticipate independent claim 1.

As such, Whitney fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 1. Accordingly, in view of the forgoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If allowance of this application may be expedited by resolution of any issues through a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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